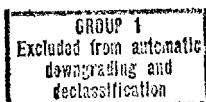27 FEB 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Planning, Programming and Budgeting Staff, NPIC

SUBJECT: Comments on Five-Year Plan, Fiscal 1972-1976

1.   I asked my TSSG components to review and comment on the final
version of the FY 1972-1976 NPIC Five-Year Plan.   The comments following
are related to equipment maintenance and reliability.   These are sub-
mitted to you so that they can be considered by PP&BS in subsequent
revisions and amendments to the current plan.

        a.   Introduction, page 2 stated that projected funding and
    manpower needs for equipment maintenance and engineering design
    were not in accord with either current or forseeable trends.
    During the Plan review, it was recognized that the need for
    increased preventive maintenance exists and could only be satis-
    fied through decreased maintenance support for tenant organiza-
    tion (departmental components).   The need for increased preventive
    maintenance seems to be a clear trend.   Rising equipment maintenance
    costs such as experienced in the [   ] contract cases   **25X1**
    recently also establishes or continues a trend.   Modest increases
    in manpower were proposed to upgrade the in-house capability to
    provide the required services at lower cost.   During the review it
    was also noted that the operational divisions had expressed to
    ESD the proposition that in-house maintenance support for ADP
    would be an improvement over contract support as is now the prac-
    tice.   This may be pointing up decreasing efficiency in contract
    services at the same time costs are rising.   The instability of
    the contractor work force (high personnel turn-over) was mentioned
    as a factor.   A previous study had estimated the in-house need for
    general purpose computer maintenance at seven man-years.   This
    alternative to contract support was rejected at the PP&BS level and
    not included in the Plan.   The rejection of the proposal to increase
    in-house engineering support (in the various engineering disciplines)
    denies the need to apply modern engineering techniques to the day-
    to-day operation of the Center.   For instance, current trends towards
    automation with emphasis on safety and operational effectiveness at
    least cost emphasize the need for applied engineering techniques, e.g.
    equipment reliability, maintainability, methods improvement and value
    engineering.

        b.   Part II, Center Objectives, page 6 mentions preventive and
    regular maintenance.   "Regular" should read "emergency" to reflect
    the true nature of ESD/EPB work.

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SUBJECT: Comments on Five-Year Plan, Fiscal 1972-1976

        c.   Part III, Assumptions, paragraph 4, page 8, states that NPIC will continue to be tasked to provide services of common concern to the departmental organizations. We believe these services include equipment maintenance support for tenant organizations which was considered by PP&BS to be vulnerable for reduction as an alternative to increasing the Engineering Support Division staff.

        d.   Part VII, Imagery Services Program Element Changes, page 27 contains a statement that [   ] and dry silver processing **25X1** are both more expensive than present black and white processes. It is our belief that the development of the dry silver process has proceeded on the assumption that use of this material would be _less_ costly than the wet black and white process.

        e.   Part XI, ADP Annex, Contracts and Costs, page 37 states that roughly half of the proposed funds [   ] are required **25X1** to accommodate maintenance contracts for ADP equipment. If the system includes "terminal" equipment and "communications facilities" as stated on page 32 then it is possible that the operating component forecast is not coordinated with the TSSG plans to provide for maintenance of "peripheral" equipment.

25X1

Chief, Technical Services and Support Group, NPIC

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